

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): For use by a read/write  
2 machine, a method for assigning a unique label to a storage  
3 medium, the method comprising:

4 a) determining whether or not the storage medium has  
5 been assigned a unique volume label and a unique label  
6 identifier ~~considered before~~;

7 b) if the storage medium has not been assigned a  
8 unique volume label and a unique label identifier  
9 ~~considered before~~, then

10 (i) determining a unique label identifier for  
11 the storage medium,

12 (ii) determining a unique volume label for the  
13 storage medium,

14 (iii) writing the unique volume label onto the  
15 storage medium, and

16 (iv) providing a command to generate a label  
17 based on the unique label identifier, the label  
18 to be associated with the storage medium; and

19 c) updating a database based on files, if any, added  
20 to or deleted from the storage medium.

1 Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 further  
2 comprising:

3 d) synchronizing the database with a database on a  
4 device apart from the read/write machine.

1 Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the  
2 read/write machine is a personal computer and the device is  
3 a handheld device.

1 Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3 wherein the  
2 device is an untethered handheld device.

1 Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the  
2 read/write machine is a computer with at least one of (a) a  
3 floppy disk drive, (b) a CD ROM drive, (c) a ZIP drive, and  
4 (d) a DVD drive.

1 Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the  
2 label based on the unique label identifier is a bar code  
3 label.

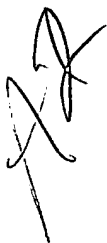
1 Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the act  
2 of determining a unique volume label is based, at least in  
3 part, on state information accessible to the read/write  
4 machine.

1 Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein the  
2 state information is a count sequence.

1 Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the  
2 database includes records, each record including a first  
3 field having a value associated with the unique volume  
4 label, and a second field having a value associated with a  
5 file stored on the storage medium.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): The A method for determining  
2 the contents of a storage medium without reading the  
3 storage medium, the method of claim 1, further comprising:

4        ad)    accepting information read from a label  
5        associated with the storage medium without reading the  
6        storage medium;  
7        be)    converting the accepted information into a  
8        database key;  
9        ef)    requesting records from a database instance using  
10       the database key;  
11       eg)    accepting records in response to the request; and  
12       eh)    rendering information about the accepted records.



1    Claim 11 (original):    The method of claim 10 wherein the  
2    label associated with the storage medium is a bar code and  
3    wherein the information read from the label is accepted  
4    from a bar code scanner.

1    Claim 12 (original):    The method of claim 10 wherein the  
2    information about the accepted records rendered includes  
3    file names.

1    Claim 13 (original):    The method of claim 12 wherein the  
2    accepted information read from a label associated with the  
3    storage medium is read by a handheld device, and the  
4    information about the accepted records is rendered on the  
5    handheld device.

1    Claim 14 (original):    The method of claim 13 wherein the  
2    read label is converted into a database key by the handheld  
3    device, the records are requested from a database instance  
4    using the database key by the handheld device, and the  
5    records are accepted in response to the request by the  
6    handheld device.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): A method for matching file  
2 parameters with one or more storage media, each of the one  
3 or more storage media having an associated label, the  
4 method comprising:

- 5 a) accepting one or more search parameters;  
6 b) generating a query based on the search parameters;  
7 c) accepting one or more records returned in response to  
8 the query generated;  
9 d) rendering information associated with each of the one  
10 or more records accepted, the information rendered being  
11 related to the label associated with the storage medium  
12 storing one or more files identified with the one or more  
13 records accepted, wherein the label is provided on the  
14 storage medium without storing it on the storage medium.

1 Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein the  
2 labels are machine-readable labels, the method further  
3 comprising:


- 4 e) accepting information read from the  
5 machine-readable labels;  
6 f) if the accepted information read from the  
7 machine-readable labels matches information associated  
8 with any one of the one or more records accepted, then  
9 generating a first indicator, said first indicator  
10 able to be perceived by humans.

1 Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16 further  
2 comprising:

- 3 g) if the accepted information read from the  
4 machine-readable labels does not match information

5 associated with any one of the one or more records  
6 accepted, then generating a second indicator, said second  
7 indicator able to be perceived by humans.

1 Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein the  
2 first indicator is a first audible sound, and the second  
3 indicator is a second audible sound.

 1 Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein each  
2 of the labels include human-readable part, and wherein the  
3 information associated with each of the one or more records  
4 accepted corresponds to the human-readable part of the  
5 labels.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): An apparatus for assigning a  
2 unique label to a removable storage medium, the apparatus  
3 comprising:

4 a) means for reading files from and/or writing files  
5 to a removable storage medium;  
6 b) means for generating a label;  
7 c) means for determining whether or not the removable  
8 storage medium has been assigned a unique volume label  
9 and a unique label identifier ~~considered before~~;  
10 d) means, if the storage medium has not been assigned  
11 a unique volume label and a unique label identifier  
12 ~~considered before~~, for

13 (i) determining a unique label identifier,  
14 (ii) determining a unique volume label,  
15 (iii) instructing the means for reading and/or  
16 writing files to write the unique volume label  
17 onto the storage medium, and

18 (iv) providing a command to generate a label  
19 based on the unique label identifier, to the  
20 means for generating a label; and  
21 e) a database, wherein the database is updated based  
22 on any files added to or deleted from the removable  
23 storage medium.

1 Claim 21 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 further  
2 comprising:  
3 f) means for synchronizing the database with a  
4 database on a device apart from the apparatus.

1 Claim 22 (original): The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the  
2 device is a handheld device.

1 Claim 23 (original): The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the  
2 device is an untethered, handheld device.

1 Claim 24 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the  
2 means for reading files from and/or writing files to a  
3 removable storage medium are at least one of (a) a floppy  
4 disk drive, (b) a CD ROM drive, (c) a ZIP drive, and (d) a  
5 DVD drive.

1 Claim 25 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the  
2 label is a bar code label.

1 Claim 26 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 further  
2 comprising:

3 f) state information, wherein the unique volume label  
4 is determined, at least in part, based on the state  
5 information.

1 Claim 27 (original): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the  
2 state information is a count sequence.

1 Claim 28 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the  
2 database includes records, each record including a first  
3 field having a value associated with the unique volume  
4 label, and a second field having a value associated with a  
5 file stored on the removable storage medium.

1 Claim 29 (currently amended): The An apparatus for  
2 ~~determining the contents of a storage medium without~~  
3 ~~reading the storage medium, the apparatus of claim 20~~  
4 further comprising:

5 af) means for reading a label associated with the  
6 storage medium without reading the storage medium;

7 bg) means for accepting information read, by the  
8 means for reading, from a label associated with the  
9 storage medium;

10 eh) means for converting the read label into a  
11 database key;

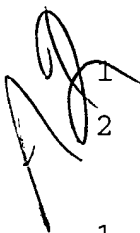
12 di) means for requesting records from a database  
13 instance using the database key;

14 dj) means for accepting records in response to the  
15 request; and

16 ek) means for rendering information about the  
17 accepted records.

1 Claim 30 (original): The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the  
2 means for reading is a bar code scanner, and wherein the  
3 label associated with the storage medium is a bar code.

1 Claim 31 (original): The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the  
2 information about the accepted records rendered includes  
3 file names.

 1 Claim 32 (original): The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the  
2 means for rendering is a display.

1 Claim 33 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 29  
2 further comprising:  
3 1f) the database.

1 Claim 34 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 33  
2 further comprising:  
3 me) means for synchronizing the database with a  
4 database maintained by a separate machine which  
5 created the storage medium.

1 Claim 35 (currently amended): An apparatus for matching  
2 file parameters with one or more storage media, each of the  
3 one or more storage media having an associated label, the  
4 apparatus comprising:


- 5 a) a user input for accepting one or more search  
6 parameters;  
7 b) means for generating a query based on the accepted  
8 one or more search parameters;  
9 c) means for accepting one or more records returned in  
10 response to the query generated;



11 d) means for rendering information associated with each  
12 of the one or more records accepted, the information  
13 rendered being related to the label associated with the  
14 storage medium storing one or more files identified with  
15 the one or more records accepted, wherein the label is  
16 provided on the storage medium without storing it on the  
17 storage medium.

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1 Claim 39 (original): The apparatus of claim 35 wherein  
2 each of the labels include human-readable part, and wherein  
3 the information associated with each of the one or more  
4 records accepted corresponds to the human-readable part of  
5 the labels.

 1 Claim 40 (new): The method of claim 1 wherein if the  
2 storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume label  
3 and a unique label identifier then further,  
4 - generating a label based on the unique label  
5 identifier, and  
6 - fixing the generated label to the storage  
7 medium without storing it on the storage medium.

1 Claim 41 (new): The apparatus of claim 20 further  
2 comprising means, if the storage medium has not been  
3 assigned a unique volume label and a unique label  
4 identifier, for  
5 - generating a label based on the unique label  
6 identifier, and  
7 - fixing the generated label to the storage  
8 medium without storing it on the storage medium.

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